

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 /078 W

----- 116932

R 280930Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6999

INFO AEMBASSY BANGKOK 9460

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 12059

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE MEDIA REPORT MNLF LEADER MISUARI ABOUT TO
SURRENDER

REFS: (A) MANILA 11956

(B) MANILA 11889

(C) MANILA 11712

(D) TRIPOLI 0955

1. ACCORDING GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED MEDIA REPORT IN TIMES
JOURNAL OF AUG. 28, NR MISUARI (CHAIRMAN OF MORO NATIONAL
LIBERATION FRONT -- MNLF) IS ABOUT TO SURRENDER INWAKE OF
RECENT REVERSES SUFFERED BY MUSLIM REBELS IN SOUTHERN
PHILIPPINES. ACCOUNT SOURCED TO REBEL SURRENDEREES SAYS
MISUARI (NOW IN MIDDLE EAST) AND WIFE DASDEMONA TAN MAY
RESPOND TO PRESIDENT MARCOS FEELERS AND ATTEND "PEACE
CONFERENCE" WITH PRESIDENT AND OTHER EX-REBELS. SULU AREA
COMMANDER ADMIRAL ESPALDON REPORTEDLY SAID MISUARI "LOSING
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HIS MASS BASE" AS RESULT OF RECENT SURRENDERS BY MNLF

LEADERS. OTHER OFFICIALS CITED "WEAKENING SUPPORT FROM OUTSIDE" AS RESULT OF CHALLENGE TO TUN MUSTAPHA'S POSITION IN SABAH.

2. COMMENT: GOP IS CHURNING OUT PUBLICITY ON RECENT SURRENDERS AND EVENTS IN SABAH IN HOPE OF DISCOURAGING REBELS AND INDUCING FURTHER DEFECTIONS. HOWEVER, ALLEGATION THAT MISUARI IS ABOUT TO SURRENDER IS ALMOST CERTAINLY DISINFORMATION AND WILL PRESUMABLY BE DENIED IN DUE COURSE BY MISUARI AND "FOREIGN MINISTER" HASHIM SALAMAT, IN LINE WITH THEIR RECENT REJECTIONS OF OTHER GOP CLAIMS (REF D).

3. WHILE GOP HAS APPARENTLY MADE SOME SIGNIFICANT INROADS INTO REBEL STRENGTH ON BASILAN ISLAND AND PERHAPS ELSEWHERE IN SULU AREA, FIGHTING REMAINS HEAVY ON JOLO ISLAND ITSELF, MOREOVER, GENERAL MUSLIM UNREST IS CURRENTLY AT VERY HIGH LEVEL IN LANA O PROVINCES AND INSURGENCY IN COTABATO SECTOR IS FAR FROM OVER. MOREOVER, SURRENDERS OF ETHNIC TAUSUGS REPORTED REFS B AND C MAY YET TURN OUT TO BE TEMPORARY ("RETURNEES" FOR EXAMPLE APPARENTLY TURNED IN FEW IF ANY MODERN WEAPONS).
SULLIVAN

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